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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-00 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-15 ADS-00 SSO-00  
INRE-00 SS-15 INR-10 NSAE-00 PCH-04 PA-02 SY-05  
SYE-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 JSSS-00 OCT-02 H-02 SSN-05  
SSN-02 4103 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WRANSAY  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSEMAN  
PA/PRS:JTRATTNER  
H:PBURLEIGH  
SSN:FTRINKA  
NEA/IAI:DKORN  
NEA/ARN:NHOWELL  
NEA/EGY:EPECK  
NEA/ARP:JCOUNTRYMAN  
NEA/IRN:HPRECHT

-----093400 260131Z /67

O R 252140Z JUL 89

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN:IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY Dacca IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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REVIEWED BY *Lisa Kelley* DATE *8/14/89*  
( ) RELEASE ( ) DECLASSIFY  
( ) EXCISE ( ) DECLASSIFY in PART  
( ) DENY ( ) Non-responsive info.  
FOR EO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:  
( ) CLASSIFY as \_\_\_\_\_, OADR  
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
SECDEF WASHDC 0000  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
NSC WASHDC 0000  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
USICA WASHDC  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI 0000  
USCOB/USAB BERLIN GE/USBER  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH  
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH  
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PASS PAOS, CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV DELIVER PAO BY 0900

E.O. 12065N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 25, 1980

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 25, 1980. SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER:

Q. WILL YOU BRING US UP TO DATE AS TO WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY LIVE PROSPECTS GOING IN FINDING A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO AFGHANISTAN?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO REPORT TO YOU ON THAT, SARRY. HOWEVER, I DO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE YOU AN UPDATE ON AFGHANISTAN WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO DO SINCE A LOT OF YOU HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN IT. THIS IS A RATHER LONG THING WHICH I CAN'T TAKE YOU THROUGH ENTIRELY NOW BUT I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE A COUPLE OF THINGS TO YOU.

AS WE POINTED OUT BEFORE, THERE HAS BEEN A VERY DEFINITE INCREASE IN THE SOVIET BOMBING OF AFGHAN VILLAGES IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS OR SO, AND I THINK WE ALSO SAID THIS MIGHT BE IN PART A RETALIATION AGAINST ATTACKS BY RESISTANCE GROUPS FROM THESE GROUPS OR SIMPLY TO BURN THEMSELVES.

WE DON'T REALLY KNOW. WE DO KNOW THE VILLAGES ARE BEING DESTROYED AND CASUALTIES CREATED.

THE KARMAL GOVERNMENT, IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, HAS BEEN TO  
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SOME EXTENT REORGANIZED, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION WE HAVE, AND MORE POWER NOW RESTS IN A CENTRALIZED WAY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT HE NOW HAS DIRECTLY UNDER HIM, MR. KARMAL, ARE THOSE REGARDING PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH BEFORE RESTED WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTRY.

IN THAT CONNECTION, I MIGHT ALSO SAY THERE HAS BEEN CONTINUING DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO MAJOR POLITICAL FACTIONS, THE KHALQ AND THE PARCHAM FACTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, A SPATE OF LOW AND MIDDLE-LEVEL ASSASSINATIONS IN KABUL RELATED TO THAT SPLIT, AND NUMEROUS RUMORS OF HIGHER-LEVEL OFFICIALS ALSO KILLED OR ARRESTED BECAUSE OF THE FEUD.

THE LAST FEW DAYS WE HAVE SEEN MANY SUCH STORIES, MANY OF WHICH PROBABLY FALL INTO THE RUMOR CATEGORY, BUT ONE AT LEAST WE KNOW TO BE TRUE, AND THAT IS THAT THE DEPUTY

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MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DR. MOHAMMAD WALI YUSUF, WAS  
GUNNED DOWN IN KABUL ON JULY 20.

Q. JOHN, YOU MENTIONED THESE RUMORS. ONE OF THEM WAS THAT  
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, NOT THE DEPUTY MINISTER, BUT  
THE WOMAN WHO IS MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HAS BEEN KILLED.  
CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON THAT ONE?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT ONE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW TO WHAT EXTENT THE AFGHAN ARMY IS INVOLVED,  
IN THE FIGHTING, OR IS THIS MOSTLY SOVIET OR ALL SOVIET  
EQUIPMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW, PRECISELY. WE HAVE SAID--AND I THINK  
YOU HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES--THAT OUR INFORMATION IS THAT  
THE AFGHAN ARMY HAS SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL FROM EXTENSIVE  
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DESERTIONS. I WOULD THINK, THEREFORE, THAT THEY ARE  
PROBABLY HAVING TROUBLE USING WHAT IS LEFT OF THAT ARMY  
IN THEIR OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN, AND THAT THESE ARE  
PRIMARILY SOVIET OPERATIONS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

Q. A WHILE BACK YOU PASSED ALONG REPORTS OF ANTI-  
PERSONNEL MINES BEING SEWN IN SOME OF THE PASSES LEADING  
INTO PAKISTAN.

A. YES.

Q. AND A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL LATER SUGGESTED THESE  
COULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE. I NOTICE REPORTS  
IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, FRENCH TV JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS  
WHO HAVE BEEN INTO AFGHANISTAN WITH THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT  
SAYING THAT THE RESISTANCE HAS NOW LEARNED HOW TO DEAL WITH  
THESE AND NEUTRALIZE THESE.

DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY FURTHER JUDGMENT NOW FOLLOWING  
ITS EARLIER JUDGMENT THAT WAS OFFERED TO JOURNALISTS THAT  
THESE MIGHT BE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE? DO YOU STILL FEEL  
THEY MIGHT BE OR ARE THEY BEING COPEO WITH, AS SOME OF  
THESE PRESSURE POINTS SUGGEST?

A. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

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Q. ALSO ON AFGHANISTAN, ON WEDNESDAY THE SECRETARY MET WITH AGHA SHAMI. THE MEETING WAS TOTALLY ABOUT AFGHANISTAN. IS THAT GOING TO RESULT IN ANY NEW AID ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH PAKISTAN--U.S. AID FOR THE AFGHAN REFUGEES OR REBELS THROUGH PAKISTAN?

A. I THINK WE HAVE SAID SEVERAL TIMES WE DON'T DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE RESISTANCE FIGHTERS IN AFGHANISTAN. AS FAR AS AID TO PAKISTAN IS CONCERNED, I DON'T WANT TO PREDICT FOR YOU--I THINK IT HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED  
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DISCUSSED, BUT I DON'T FORESEE ANY IMMEDIATE NEW INITIATIVE ON ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN FROM THE UNITED STATES.

I DON'T WANT TO SAY THAT IT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. I JUST AM NOT UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT ANYTHING IS IN THE WORKS RIGHT NOW.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT LAST WEEK CONCLUDING WHAT WAS CALLED A SECRET AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH CAIRO WILL SUPPLY THE AFGHAN REBELS WITH SOVIET ARMS, WHILE ITSELF RECEIVING MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FROM THE UNITED STATES, A KUWAITI NEWSPAPER SAYS. IS THERE ANYTHING TO THAT?

A. I SAW THAT BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT PARTICULAR SUBJECT.

Q. THERE WERE SOME TESTS THAT WERE BEING CONDUCTED WITH SOME MATERIAL THAT WAS SENT FROM AFGHANISTAN--CLOTHING, AND SO FORTH--TO SEE WHETHER GAS, NERVE GAS OR ANY OTHER KIND OF LETHAL GAS OR DEBILITATING GAS, WAS BEING USED IN AFGHANISTAN. ARE THOSE TESTS COMPLETED, AND WHAT ARE THE RESULTS IF THEY ARE COMPLETED?

A. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION, THERE MAY BE AN ANSWER I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT.

Q. HAVE THE SAUDIS CONSULTED WITH THIS GOVERNMENT ABOUT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IF THE RUSSIANS PULL OUT OF AFGHANISTAN?

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY HAVE, NO.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE TABATABAI MURDER.  
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ANY EVIDENCE THAT THERE IS ANY FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT, ANY INVOLVEMENT OF THE ALGERIANS?

A. I DON'T. I THINK THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND THE FBI ARE SPEAKING ABOUT THAT FAIRLY STEADILY, AND I WOULD HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THEM. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THEIRS.

Q. YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT WE WERE DISCUSSING THIS SITUATION WITH THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS?

A. NOT YET.

Q. NBC CARRIED REPORTS THIS MORNING ON SOMETHING THAT I HAVE BEEN BRINGING UP HERE. DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO THAT, THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WHO, AT THIS POINT, FEEL THAT THEY HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO GO AFTER MR. NAHIDIAN, HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED? I BELIEVE THE NBC REPORT SAID IT WAS BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

A. CERTAINLY NOT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, I CONTINUE TO FEEL YOU SHOULD ASK THAT QUESTION OF JUSTICE.

Q. HAS THERE NOT BEEN SOME KIND OF A BAN ON IRANIANS COMING INTO THE UNITED STATES ON VISAS SINCE FAIRLY EARLY THIS YEAR? OFFICIAL IRANIANS.

A. THAT IS ONE OF THOSE QUESTIONS THAT TAXES MY MEMORY, AND I DON'T HAVE A PRECISE MEMORY ON THAT SINCE I WASN'T HERE, BUT RATHER THAN GIVE YOU AN ANSWER THAT COULD BE INACCURATE IN SOME RESPECTS, I WOULD RATHER TAKE IT AND PRODUCE IT FOR YOU.

Q. ALL RIGHT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD SOME DETAILS TO THAT TAKEN  
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QUESTION. MAY 23 TO 27 THE MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION--  
I AM READING NOW FROM AN INVESTIGATIVE LEADS NEWSLETTER--  
HELD A CONFERENCE IN OXFORD, OHIO, PREPARING ITS MEMBERS

FOR WHAT THEY TERMED A "JIHAD" AGAINST ALL WESTERN  
GOVERNMENTS. THERE WERE ABOUT 3,000 MEMBERS OF THE MSA,  
INCLUDING A LOT OF NEW RECRUITS FROM AMERICAN BLACK  
MUSLIM SECTS.

THERE WERE TWO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED.  
JAMSHED HAKKO, THE GOVERNOR OF AZERBAIJAN, AND MOZAFFER  
PARTOWMAH ADVISOR TO BANI-SADR. THESE OFFICIALS GAVE  
EXTREMELY INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES. THEY WERE BOTH HERE ON  
STATE DEPARTMENT VISAS.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS AT THE TIME THAT  
THESE VISAS WERE GRANTED ANY KIND OF SPECIAL REVIEW FOR  
GRANTING VISAS TO IRANIAN OFFICIALS WHICH I BELIEVE WAS  
IN EFFECT.

A. I WILL ADD THAT TO THE QUESTION I JUST TOOK.

Q. A SECOND PALESTINIAN DIED IN THE JAIL IN OCCUPIED  
TERRITORIES. WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO ENLIGHTEN US?

A. WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MATTER AND HAVE BEEN IN  
TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE MATTER.  
WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS  
CONCERNED ABOUT THE MATTER, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY  
WILL DO THEIR BEST TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS. OF COURSE WE  
WILL FOLLOW IT CLOSELY.

Q. WILL YOU COMMENT ON THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT'S DECISION  
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REGARDING JERUSALEM?

A. OUR POSITION HAS BEEN STATED OFTEN BEFORE. ON  
JERUSALEM, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED UNILATERAL ACTS  
WHICH SEEK TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM OUTSIDE OF A  
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. THAT IS NOTHING YOU HAVE NOT HEARD  
MANY TIMES BEFORE. I READ IT TO YOU IN ORDER TO GET ALL  
THE WORDS EXACTLY CORRECT.

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Q. BACK TO LIBYA. CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THINGS STAND NOW WITH REGARD TO REPAYMENT FOR THE DAMAGE DONE TO THE EMBASSY LAST DECEMBER?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA. WE DID ASK IN RESPONSE TO A SIMILAR QUESTION. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT WE HAVE NOT YET PRESENTED THE BILL. IT IS THEIR BUILDING. WE WERE OCCUPYING A LIBYAN-OWNED BUILDING. THE DAMAGE TO OUR PROPERTY WAS VERY SMALL. MOST OF THE DAMAGE WAS TO THEIR PROPERTY.

Q. IS THERE ANY INTENTION TO REOPEN OUR MISSION IN TRIPOLI IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY INTENTION TO OPEN IT IN THE FUTURE.  
CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHES ALGIERS AND BAGHDAD.

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